



Perugia Sister Cities Tour

October
14-21,
2018

*Hosted by:
Mayor Rosalynn Bliss,
Chef Jenna Arcidiacono
& the City of Perugia*

A commemorative tour to celebrate
the 25th anniversary of the
Grand Rapids & Perugia Sister City Connection
*In Partnership with The City of Grand Rapids, Amore Trattoria
Italiana and Grand Rapids Sister Cities International*

Since 1992, Grand Rapids and Perugia have been joined as "Città Gemelle", Sister Cities. The relationship exists to promote understanding and mutual respect through exchanges in culture, art, education, and community and economic development. Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss, Perugia Mayor Andrea Romizi, and Chef Jenna Arcidiacono cordially invite you to join a special weeklong exchange to Perugia in the beautiful region of Umbria.

Perugia, the cosmopolitan capital of Umbria, is the perfect base and the group will enjoy day trips further afield to Assisi, Lake Trasimeno, and hilltop Orvieto. Highlights include time spent at City Hall, a cooking class in the Umbrian countryside, and local guides sharing history, art, and culture. Europe's largest chocolate festival will be taking place at the end of our visit, so we will enjoy partaking in Perugia's Eurochocolate. For this special GR Sister Cities Tour, we're not tourists but guests, a special opportunity to recognize a long held, important Sister City connection!

This special tour features
a week of culture, civic
study, sightseeing, and
unforgettable culinary
experiences.

Travelers will be warmly
welcomed to Perugia and
an official ceremony will be
held to commemorate the
25th anniversary.

Join a dynamic, engaged
group of Grand Rapidians
sharing ideas and insights
and experiencing Italy
together.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW perugia sister cities tour



PERUGIA FAST FACTS:

Capital city of the region of Umbria in central Italy

Current population ~168,000

City symbol is the griffin

Grand Rapids and Perugia have collaborated for 25 years, and we celebrate the deep connection between the Sister Cities.

Programs include:

- The Angela Ryan – UNISTRA Scholarship which sends two students or residents to Perugia each year to study Italian language and culture.
- Annual scholarships to University of Perugia students who participate in an exchange program with the GVSU Political Science Department.
- There is a music partnership through St. Cecilia Music Center.
- The committee co-sponsors a Perugian artist to participate in ArtPrize each year.
- Volunteers travel to Perugia to staff a booth at the Perugia Sister City Market attended by more than 50,000 visitors from Perugia and greater Europe.
- Elementary school age children have maintained a pen pal program since 2007.
- To regularly further Italian culture and language, the committee facilitates monthly meetings of Club Italia.

Located on a hilltop 102 miles north of Rome and 92 miles southeast of Florence

One of the main Etruscan cities, first mentioned in historical texts around 310 BC

Home to the University of Perugia (founded 1308), as well as the Academy of Fine Arts, the Music Conservatorium, and University for Foreigners

Main industries: food, textile, machinery, and pharmaceuticals

Your Hosts



MAYOR ROSALYNN BLISS
The City of Grand Rapids

Mayor Bliss took office on January 1, 2016. She previously served as a Second Ward City Commissioner for 10 years. Mayor Bliss is an adjunct professor at GVSU, a social worker, and a community leader. She is the city's 59th Mayor and first female mayor and serves on the board of the DDA, Experience GR, Grand Valley Metro Council, among others.



CHEF JENNA ARCIDIACONO
Amore Trattoria Italiana

Chef Jenna, recently honored as one of *The 50 Most Influential Women in West MI*, has been hosting culinary tours in Italy with Onward Travel for 4 years. Her restaurant, Amore Trattoria Italiana, has won countless awards including *Restaurant of the Year*, *Best Chef*, *Best Italian*, *Best Restaurant* and the list goes on.



DANIELA BORGHESI
Municipality of Perugia

A Perugia native, Daniela Borghesi is the Managing Cultural Instructor in the City of Perugia Office for Int'l Relations. Daniela coordinates Perugia's six sister city relationships and is passionate about the promotion of international cultural exchange and dialogue with an emphasis on combined institutional, cultural and economic interests.

Welcome to Italy!

DAY 1: SUNDAY OCTOBER 14

Upon arrival at Rome FCO airport your Onward Travel guide will be waiting for you with a professional driver and comfortable private transportation for the two hour drive to Perugia. We'll stop along the way for a lovely lunch in Narni, an enchanting ancient Umbrian hilltop town located in the exact geographical center of Italy.

This afternoon the group will check in at the luxurious Brufani Hotel. In the evening, our group will gather at one of the city's best restaurants where the renowned chef-owner will welcome our group and lead us in a culinary introduction to Umbrian cuisine. A representative from the City of Perugia will also join the group and officially welcome the Grand Rapids Delegation to their Sister City.

Meals Lunch, Dinner

Celebrating Sister Cities

DAY 2: MONDAY OCTOBER 15

Enjoy the deluxe buffet breakfast at Hotel Brufani this morning as you will each day of the trip. Then we'll set out for a walking tour of the fascinating historic center of Perugia accompanied by a fun and knowledgeable local guide. We'll be introduced to several of Perugia's most important landmarks and institutions.

Once you've been introduced to Grand Rapids' beautiful and dynamic Italian sister city, the time has come to celebrate that special relationship. You are cordially invited to Perugia City Hall for the 25th Anniversary Ceremony with the Mayors of Perugia and Grand Rapids and Perugia City Council. There the Sister City agreement will be signed amidst the requisite pomp and circumstance, accompanied of course by plenty of good cheer which will continue into the official celebratory lunch following the ceremony.

Take some time this afternoon to explore Perugia on your own or relax and unwind at the hotel. Explore the city's mix of museums, art galleries, and public squares. Tonight there is a special event in store, a wine pairing dinner in the Umbrian countryside at a castle that seems straight out of a fairytale.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

A Day of Living History

DAY 3: TUESDAY OCTOBER 16

This morning our delegation will visit the Perugian elementary school that is involved in an exchange with a class at the St. Paul Elementary School in Grand Rapids. These children will be excited to meet our group and we will converse with educators and learn about the education system in Italy.

Then our group will be privileged to experience living history at the Giuditta Brozzetti Handweaving Laboratory, located inside a former thirteenth century church where Saint Francis and his disciples once lived and prayed. The passionate, fourth generation proprietor will treat our group to a private tour and demonstration of traditional Umbrian hand weaving techniques.

Enjoy lunch on your own in Perugia today and then we are off to Assisi. Our local guide will lead us around this legendary place of pilgrimage, the birthplace of St. Francis of Assisi. A highlight of our tour will be a visit to the massive Basilica of St Francis, built in the 13th century in the Gothic style, and decorated inside with stunning Giotto frescoes.

Near Assisi is the very special Agriturismo Le Mandrie di San Paolo, where we'll learn about olive oil extraction and have the opportunity to taste the just-pressed olive oil from this year's harvest. Then the proprietors will serve us a multi-course rustic Umbrian meal, bursting with fresh seasonal flavors. As our Perugian hosts have advised, this is a "dream place," and dining this evening in a picturesque eleventh century farmhouse will surely be extraordinary.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner



Enjoy dinner in a castle just outside Perugia

Travel Back in Time

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 17

This morning we will have a special visit at the National Gallery of Umbria, home to an internationally renowned collection. Perugia has a rich and important artistic tradition, so a visit to the National Gallery will foster a deeper connection to this place. We will also visit the University for Foreigners, where thousands of international students study Italian language and culture. The University has a sister cities scholarship program and students from Grand Rapids attend each year.

Midday we will drive to Gubbio, sometimes called the Umbrian Siena, this is a destination decidedly off the beaten tourist path and a place where we can see locals going about everyday life in the heart of this lovely, preserved Medieval hilltop town. Lunch in Gubbio will be one to remember: a feast centered on truffles, the prized gastronomic jewel of Umbria, and perfectly in season at the time of our visit. After lunch our local guide will lead us through his favorite corners of this enchanting place.

We'll return to Perugia in the afternoon. Enjoy the rest of the day as you like.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch



Autumn cuisine in Umbria: homemade pasta with shaved truffles

A Day on the Lake

DAY 5: THURSDAY OCTOBER 18

Today will be set out to enjoy the fresh air at Lake Trasimeno, Italy's fourth largest lake and an ideal place to experience the natural beauty of Umbria. How you spend this morning is up to you - you may visit the saffron workshop on the banks of the lake to learn the traditional process of growing, harvesting and drying saffron, or join a leisurely guided cycle ride beside Lake Trasimeno.

Then, we'll board a private boat for a cruise around the lake accompanied by a guide who will teach us about the fascinating ecology of this stunning body of water while we enjoy a light lunch.

In the afternoon we'll make our way to the small town of Deruta, the center of the revered local ceramics industry that has flourished here since the Middle Ages. You'll have time to visit the fantastic Museo della Ceramica and, if you like, purchase a handmade souvenir from the many boutique pottery shops. We'll stay in Deruta through the evening, as the guests at a fantastic little osteria run by a wonderfully gregarious family team. Chef Luigi, along with his wife and father, will welcome us into the kitchen as friends for a special cooking class focused on seasonal Umbrian specialties followed by a delightful dinner party with plenty of wine and plenty of laughs.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Orvieto

DAY 6: FRIDAY OCTOBER 19

The most beloved of the Umbrian hilltop towns is certainly Orvieto. You may already be familiar with the variety of wine named for the town and grown in the hills around it. We'll spend the entire day and evening in Orvieto today. Our first stop is the awe-inspiring Duomo of Orvieto. Built in the 14th century, this imposing cathedral is an undeniable monument to human creativity and our guided tour this morning will be a highlight of the entire week.

After a delicious lunch of local products in a small gastronomic boutique (just wait until you try the olive oil!) we have a special treat in order - our local guide will take us to a hidden section of the fascinating Orvieto Underground. This vast network of subterranean streets, caves and passageways dates back to ancient times and was dug over many centuries. Today it offers a valuable look back at life thousands of years ago.

In the evenings Orvieto is a vibrant place, the small corridors and alleyways are alive with twinkling lights and strolling shoppers. So you'll have a few hours to enjoy the evening in Orvieto as you like, whether you want to settle in to a wine bar, peruse the boutiques, or enjoy a gourmet dinner.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch



The stunning *duomo* in Orvieto

Chocolate, Wine & a Farewell Feast

DAY 7: SATURDAY OCTOBER 20

If you can't already tell by the heading.... Our last day in Perugia will be sweet and decadent. The end of our tour coincides with the annual Eurochocolate festival—by now the streets of Perugia will have been overtaken with the continent's largest chocolate festival. Enjoy the revelry today, our hotel is right in the heart of it all.

In the mid-afternoon we bid Perugia *arrivederci* and begin our journey back to Rome Fiumicino Airport, albeit with some special stops along the way. First, we will visit a delightful Umbrian winery for an exclusive tour and tasting. This family owned winery offers many varietals unique to the region and you'll enjoy tasting them and learning about the winemaking operation here and the people behind it.

A bit further down the road is the family-owned gourmet dining destination where we'll enjoy a farewell feast together. Twin brothers manage the restaurant, with one in front of house and one in the kitchen - the chef twin is something of an artist and the restaurant has especially made a name for itself from his creative, whimsical and over-the-top dessert creations. We'll raise a glass of Umbrian wine tonight, to toast our traveling companions and these two special cities that have formed an enduring bond for over 25 years.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Arrivederci!

DAY 8: SUNDAY OCTOBER 21

Enjoy the included breakfast at the hotel this morning before you catch a complimentary shuttle to the airport for your flight home, full of fond memories, new friends, and a meaningful connection to Perugia and Umbria.

Meals Breakfast

TRIP ESSENTIALS perugia sister cities tour

BEGINS	Sunday, October 14, 2018 10:00 AM Rome Fiumicino Airport
ENDS	Sunday, October 21, 2018 no activities scheduled Rome Fiumicino Airport Hotel
MOBILITY	This tour includes walking for 15-30 minutes at a time, plus stairs and cobblestones. If you have limited mobility, we can accommodate you, but it is essential to let us know at the time of registration. Travelers may always opt out of activities they deem too physically challenging but refunds will not be provided.
TRIP LENGTH	8 days, 7 nights
LODGING	Brufani Hotel <i>six nights</i> Luxury hotel located in the heart of Perugia. Hotel features a bar, restaurant, fitness area, and a spectacular swimming pool. Panoramic views, well appointed rooms, and top level service. Guests will enjoy private, en suite accommodations. Brufani Hotel is the premier place to stay in Umbria's capital.
TOUR DATES & PRICE	October 14–21, 2018 Double Occupancy \$3,695 per traveler Single Supplement \$675 Please note that air travel is not included and a current passport is required for travel to Italy. You are welcome to pay by credit card, please add a 3% surcharge.

AIR TRAVEL:

The tour will start and end with transfers to/from Rome FCO Airport. Please confirm with Onward Travel that the tour is a "go" before booking non-refundable airfare.

A group block has been arranged on Delta Airlines with non-stop service between Detroit and Rome.

The price, including all taxes and a checked bag, is \$1315.

October 13, 2018 Delta 236
Depart Detroit 18:19
Arrive Rome 09:15 (Oct 14)

October 21, 2018 Delta 237
Depart Rome 11:15
Arrive Detroit 15:42

Trip price includes the following:

- Airport transfers and ground transportation in Italy.
- Six nights accommodations at a luxury hotel in Perugia and one night accommodations at an airport hotel near Rome FCO airport.
- Most meals: daily breakfasts, six lunches, and five dinners. Expect fantastic gourmet experiences, wine included, of course!
- Onward Travel guide at your service plus local tour guides and Mayor Bliss and Chef Jenna along to add to the experience.
- Activities, tastings, admission fees, and tours as detailed in the itinerary.
- Pre-trip dinner at Amore Trattoria to get to know fellow travelers and post-trip reunion dinner to relive the memories.
- Taxes and gratuities.

Register now!

Visit onwardtravel.co to complete the registration form and submit payment.

This exclusive small group tour is limited to 16 participants.

\$1250 deposit due upon booking, balance due by August 1, 2018.